

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

- 1-8. (Canceled).
9. (Currently Amended) A method for signaling several items of information relevant for operating a motor vehicle having a drive unit, comprising:
 - representing different items of information by unambiguous haptic signals at different positions of a control element of the vehicle;
 - forming the different items of information by different fuel consumption values;
 - respectively representing the different fuel consumption values by a characteristic of one of the haptic signals on the control element having a maximum at the associated position of the control element;
 - determining a specific fuel consumption from a resulting setpoint value for an output variable of the drive unit and a current engine speed;
 - converting said specific fuel into a consumption per unit of distance value; and
 - ascertaining the one of the haptic signals as a function of said consumption per unit of distance using an additional characteristics function.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:
 - the haptic signals have a maximum.
11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:
 - the control element includes an accelerator pedal.
12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:
 - the characteristic of the one of the haptic signals includes a saw-tooth-shaped characteristic.
13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, further comprising:
 - specifying at least one of the fuel consumption values using an input unit.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, further comprising:
forming the one of the haptic signals by a restoring a force acting on the control element.
15. (Previously Presented) A device for signaling several items of information relevant for operating a motor vehicle, having a drive unit, comprising:
an arrangement for representing different items of information by unambiguous haptic signals at different positions of a control element of the vehicle;
an arrangement for forming the different items of information by different fuel consumption values;
an arrangement for respectively representing the different fuel consumption values by a characteristic of one of the haptic signals on the control element having a maximum at the associated position of the control element;
an arrangement for determining a specific fuel consumption from a setpoint value for an output variable of the drive unit and a current engine speed using a characteristics function, and for determining a consumption per unit of distance from the specific fuel consumption; and
an arrangement for ascertaining the one of the haptic signals as a function of said consumption per unit of distance using an additional characteristics function.
16. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the haptic signals have a maximum.
17. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the control element includes an accelerator pedal.
18. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the characteristic of the one of the haptic signals includes a saw-tooth-shaped characteristic.